

POSITION PAPER STRUCTURE GUIDELINES

SAHM Position Papers should include the following elements:

Title: The title must reflect the intent/purpose of the positions clearly and concisely.

Abstract: The abstract should be a concise paragraph (250 words maximum) that includes the purpose and overall concept(s) of the position paper.

Positions: Each paper should list SAHM's numbered positions (1-2 sentences each) at the beginning of the paper. New positions must be consistent (non-conflicting) with established positions, unless an explanation is provided discussing the change.

Statement of the Problem: This section should serve as an introductory section of the position paper, where the authors provide a concise overview of the topic and why it is important, and brief statements of shortcomings of current practice, programs or policy.

Methods: The methods are intended to demonstrate how the initial positions were conceived and to provide a description of the review process. Example from a recent position paper is provided below:

“The author group, comprised of clinicians and researchers with expertise in adolescent sexual and reproductive health, developed the stated positions and their supporting contents from reports and technical guidance from national and international organizations and consensus from specialists in the care of AYAs. The positions and supporting content were then reviewed by external expert reviewers, and the paper was reviewed and approved by the SAHM Publication Editorial Board and the SAHM Board of Directors. These positions and recommendations to support our understanding of AYAs’ development, drivers of sexual and reproductive health and rights education and healthcare are further supported by the socio-ecological model, life course and developmental theories, and an intersectionality framework.”

Positions and Recommendations: To include up-to-date evidence-based information or expert consensus that provides justification and leads to practical recommendations for practice, programs and/or policies to actualize each of the stated positions. This section should be organized with each position as a header followed by the evidence or expert consensus which justifies the position and the actionable recommendations to the reader.

Summary: The summary should consist of a concise three-to-five sentence overview highlighting the most important take-home points from the position paper. It should capture the core significance and implications of the paper without reiterating or restating the specific positions themselves.

Authors: Members of the authoring group can be listed either in the traditional research style (first author, senior author, etc.) or in alphabetical order, along with their affiliations, and disclosures listed at the end of each position paper.

References: The references serve as the scientific justification and should be peer-reviewed research articles, public policy documents or state-of-the-art articles or books from the literature. There should be no more than 35 references. References should be formatted according to the current requirements of the *Journal of Adolescent Health*.